

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 3-5, 8-15, 17, 21, and 22 stand withdrawn.

Claim 1 has been amended to highlight patentable features of the invention. Support for the amendment of claim 1 is provided in the specification on page 3, lines 34 and 35. This amendment is presented in response to the comments provided in the Response to Arguments section of the Final Rejection.

Claims 1, 2, 19, and 20 were rejected, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Miller (US 3,682,558) in view of Nadai (US 3,393,963). Claim 6 was rejected, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Miller and Nadai in view of Bell et al. (US 4,319,852). Claim 7 was rejected, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Miller and Nadai in view of Lee (US 6,805,510). Claims 16 and 18 were rejected, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Miller and Nadai in view of Weihrauch (US 6,685,376). These are the same rejections as applied in the office action of May 3, 2005.

The applied references were discussed in detail in the Amendment filed August 3, 2005; the distinctions discussed in that Amendment are reiterated and incorporated by reference herein.

To the extent the rejections based on these references are deemed applicable to the claims as amended herein, the Applicant respectfully traverses as now follows.

Claim 1 now recites a powder applicator having a porous membrane formed of a synthetic foam that is much less open than the foam forming a storage means pad. The open foam structure of the pad allows massive storage of powder in the vicinity of the porous membrane. The less open structure of the porous membrane allows gentle and continuous migration of powder from the pad onto the skin. Such a combination of an open structured pad and a less open structured porous membrane cannot be found in the applied references.

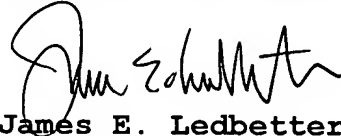
Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that the applied references, whether considered alone or together, do not teach or suggest the subject matter defined by claim 1. Therefore, allowance of claim 1 and all claims dependent therefrom is warranted.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone

the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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